



# ★ Merge Strings

Complete the *mergeStrings* function in your editor. It has 2 parameters:

1. A string, *a*.
2. A string, *b*.

Your function must *merge* strings *a* and *b*, and then return a single merged string. A *merge* operation on two strings is described as follows:

- Append alternating characters from *a* and *b*, respectively, to some new string, *mergedString*.
- Once all of the characters in one of the strings have been merged, append the remaining characters in the other string to *mergedString*.

## Input Format

The locked stub code in your editor reads two strings, *a* and *b*, from stdin and passes them to your function.

## Constraints

- $1 \leq |a|, |b| \leq 25000$

## Output Format

Your function must return the *merged* string. This will be printed to stdout by the locked stub code in your editor.

## Sample Input 1

```
abc  
def
```

## Sample Output 1

```
adbecf
```

## Sample Input 2



## Sample Output 2

azbsd

1

2

## Explanation

*Sample Case 1*

3

*a = abc*

*b = def*

4

Taking alternate characters from both the strings , we get *adbecf*

*Sample Case 2*

5

*a = ab*

*b = zsd*

Taking alternate characters from both the strings , we get *azbsd*

## YOUR ANSWER



We recommend you take a quick tour of our editor before you proceed. The timer will pause up to 90 seconds for the tour.

[Start tour](#)

Original code

Java 7



```
1 ▶ import ↔;  
6  
7 public class Solution {  
8
```



1

2

3

4

5

```
12
13 static String mergeStrings(String a, String b) {
14     if (a == null || a.length() == 0) {
15         return b;
16     }
17
18     if (b == null || b.length() == 0) {
19         return a;
20     }
21
22     StringBuilder res = new StringBuilder();
23     for (int i = 0; i < Math.min(a.length(), b.length());
24         i++) {
25         res.append(a.charAt(i));
26         res.append(b.charAt(i));
27     }
28     if (a.length() > b.length()) {
29         res.append(a.substring(b.length()));
30     } else if (b.length() > a.length()) {
31         res.append(b.substring(a.length()));
32     }
33
34     return res.toString();
35 }
36
37
38 public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException{
39     ↔
63 }
```

Line: 9 Col: 1

☐ Test against custom input

Run Code

Submit code &amp; Continue

(You can submit any number of times)

[Download sample test cases](#)

The input/output files have Unix line endings. Do not use Notepad to edit them on windows.